



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 24.18 Thursday, May 3, 2018

Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Police identify four teens involved in armed robbery

By Rosemary K. Otzman
 Independent Editor

Van Buren Township Director of Public Safety Gregory Laurain announced Tuesday that the four males involved in the April 9 armed robbery of two 10-year-old boys have been identified.

The boys told police that four male subjects were involved -- two white and two black -- in the robbery of a cell phone at the park of Belleville Manor, 8701 Belleville Road, in Van Buren Township.

Director Laurain said through the investigation by Van Buren Police Detectives and with assistance from Belleville Police Cpl. Kris Faull and Belleville High School Assistant Principal Dan Wright, all four subjects were identified.

They are:

- Ryan Klazer, white/male, 16 years old, from Belleville, a BHS student, charged with 2 counts of armed robbery (juvenile)
- Quinston Brown, black/male, 15 years old, from Ypsilanti, BHS student, charged with 2 counts of armed robbery (juvenile)
- Devonte Richard, black/male, 16 years old, from Van Buren Township, former BHS student, not charged with any crime
- Keegan Delaney, white/male, 17 years old, from Van Buren Township, BHS student, charged with 2 counts of armed robbery (adult)

Residents of Victoria Commons in Belleville watched as the investigation proceeded in their neighborhood.

One woman said she saw VBT police kicking in a door in the subdivision and when she asked about it she said a police officer told her it had to do with the two boys who got robbed.

Later, another Victoria Commons resident said he saw a black Challenger driving into the subdivision and the car the armed

(continued on page 8)



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

On Friday five Belleville High School Distinguished Graduates were inducted into the BHS Hall of Fame. This is the 20th year of honoring BHS Distinguished Graduates, with the first group honored for 1997-98. This year's honorees are, from left, Timothy Katona, '73; Lois Mida Zilka, '54; Rosemary Loria, '66; Jack Loria, '64; and Tom Sayre, who accepted the posthumous award for his father Jim Sayre, '46.

Belleville High School freshman killed by train

A 15-year-old Belleville High School freshman was killed by an eastbound Canadian Pacific Railway train traveling on Norfolk Southern tracks in Belleville on Wednesday, April 25.

Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman said that based on items found at the scene, physical descriptions and clothing, police were immediately in contact with the suspected victim's family.

Although Chief Berriman did not identify the student, social media and a posted obituary identified the victim as Joseph R. "Joe" Johnson. A memorial service is being held for him in Ypsilanti today. (See obituary on page 8.)

Chief Berriman said the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office provided positive identification. Van Buren Public Schools were notified and grief counselors were available at the school on Thursday.

Chief Berriman said at about 2:17 p.m. on April 25, Belleville Police Cpl. Kristin Faull was on patrol in the area of South Street and Sumpter Road and happened upon a stopped eastbound train.

The train engineer and conductor aboard the train reported to Cpl. Faull that they possibly struck a young male pedestrian about a half-mile west of the Sumpter Road crossing.

Chief Berriman said Cpl. Faull and Belleville Police Cpl. Todd Schrecengost responded to the area and located a deceased young white male lying upon the railroad tracks at the location described.

Chief Berriman reportedly told *The Detroit News* that the boy made no attempt

to move from the tracks despite the oncoming train.

Whether the incident occurred within the city limits of Belleville or adjoining Van Buren Township was difficult to determine, so the GPS was run and police found it was Belleville's case.

Van Buren Township Police and Fire departments assisted with technical and investigative support, Chief Berriman said. Belleville Fire Department personnel assisted with traffic control and technical support.

Chief Berriman said VBT Police Chief Jason Wright offered any help his department could give and the VBT Accident Investigation Unit took photos and investigated.

The railroad crossing at South Street / Sumpter Road was closed for hours as the investigation progressed. This was the

(continued on page 8)

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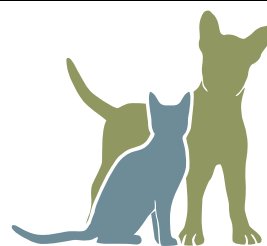
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Letters

Volunteers work to upgrade Victory Park

To the editor:

Credit where Credit is due.

On April 18, there a was an Earth Day Celebration. Since then I have received several phone calls of thanks and what am I doing next.

I have to say, I did very little on this event. The credit goes to Dorene Mroz at Our Father's Child daycare for wanting to make a second attempt at this event.

Next is Megan Holmes who contacted her mother-in-law who works at Comcast cares and asked for their participation.

I am very grateful to the Firefighters and auxiliary for all of their contributions along with Randy Brown at Gardner's Choice, Kona Ice, the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, Amy Kopsolias, Usecology, Bobby McShane's in Sumpter, Lighthouse Church in Van Buren Twp., Seventh Day Adventist church of Belleville, BHS students, members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the City of Belleville, along with the many volunteers I didn't mention.

We also had friends drop off wheel barrels and pitchforks which made the job much easier. This truly turned out to be a community initiative with 63 volunteers at the park and more at the Lighthouse church after the mulch was spread.

I have been asked what I am doing next. I currently don't have anything planned, but I usually don't. Our hope is that the community keeps getting together for events that enhance our community, when that happens I will always do my best to participate. This community always comes together, especially when the odds seem stacked against it. We came together for a new building on Main Street, we came together to challenge the need to eliminate the fire department, and now we came together to beat possibly wet weather. We don't always win but we do grow closer and stronger for our efforts.

I suggest if we feel we need an improvement in our city that maybe Facebook is irrelevant and actively seeking like minds would be a far more beneficial use of our time. Rarely does Facebook bring actions to fruition on such a small scale. It really does take several like-minded and strong-willed personalities to make progress and sometimes we need to realize it is not our government's job to take care of us. It is our job to be good neighbors.

A heart-felt thank you to all involved.

Jeff Vernon
Belleville



Volunteers gather for a picture at Victory Park on April 18.

Twisted Rooster celebrates Earth Day at Horizon Park



On Sunday, April 22, Twisted Rooster restaurant sponsored an Earth Day cleanup starting at Horizon Park in Belleville and spreading out to other places that needed cleaning. Twisted Rooster manager Natalie Bates said the event was a huge success and she is thinking of doing it every year. "I would love for it to grow and grow," she said. Bates gave a special thank you to the Lions Club, Randy Brown Landscaping and all the volunteers.

*To build a better world,
start in your own community!*

OPINIONS

Editorial

National Honor Society induction shows off our best

A senior citizen who attended Friday's induction of the 47 new members of the Belleville High School National Honor Society told us he was so impressed with the caliber of the students on that stage.

He said he remembers another time he came to Belleville High School for an event and the students were yelling and carrying on. He was not impressed.

But this time he was impressed. He said he saw the vice president of the Honor Society talking to a friend of his, a Vietnam veteran, and he asked the friend if that was his grandson, because the student was so engaged. No. Didn't know him, but they hooked up.

Our friend was very touched. These people on that stage -- some 47 inductees and 47 or so current National Honor Society members -- are our future. These are the young people who will be leading our communities and our country before long.

They were all different. Wore different clothes. During the induction ceremony, some spoke so fast you could hardly understand them or slowly so you could.

Some were able to introduce their siblings as new members. There were hand slaps and hugs. It was touching.

Although hearing a few sentences each on 47 students takes a long time, it was worth it. These fresh-faced, silly, sad, happy, nervous, confident individuals are our future. We need to encourage them as best we can.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

...By Rosemary K. Otzman

At its April 17 meeting, the Wayne City Council approved, on a 4-3 vote, the second and final reading of its opt-in ordinance for medical marijuana facilities in the city. It approved eight licensed facilities -- four provisionary centers and four of any other licensed types. The facilities will be 1,000 feet from schools, churches, and each other. Some residents wanted it to be just 500 feet apart for the licensed facilities.

The facilities will be chosen by lottery and one woman at the meeting was very upset because she has been operating as a dispensary in the city for some time. She said she's the only one she's ever heard of who has given free marijuana to a cancer patient.

Tim Katona was named a Distinguished Graduate at Belleville High School and inducted into the BHS Hall of Fame on Friday, along with four others.

Tim told of his days in the Belleville schools. He recalled when he was at Haggerty Elementary school and his teacher Jim Fitch said he had heard Tim and some friends had a rock band. They played in one of the members' basement. He asked Tim to bring it to school and play for his class -- so they did. They had never performed for anyone before. He said Mr. Fitch was at his desk and kept time to the music, smiling and enjoying the concert. Tim recalls that episode gave him confidence that he didn't have before, convincing him that maybe he could do things.

He received a national honor in Fort Worth, Texas last year: Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Reining Horse Association Hall of Fame. Good work, Mr. Fitch.

THE ANNUAL CLEAN-UP OF THE LAKE SHORE IS MAY 5, STARTING ON NORTH LIBERTY STREET ON THE LAKE... VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED.

Submitted to the Independent 2018 © 5/1



It was amusing for another Distinguished Graduate in the audience to say, "Oh, Tim Katona. He's the one who got Bemis Road paved."

You will remember that last summer after part of Bemis Road was paved from Sumpter Road to the Katona ranch, where Wayne County Executive Warren Evans kept his horse, there was a lot of local uproar and Bemis eventually was paved to Renton Road. Residents along Bemis were told the unpaved piece from Renton to Haggerty/Savage would be paved in 2018, but so far it is not scheduled.

Sgt. Bart Devos retired from the Van Buren Township Police Department after his shift on Monday, April 30, and will begin work for the City of Belleville on May 14 as a part-time officer. His son, also Bart, works full-time for the Sumpter Township Police Department.

At a city budget meeting on Monday, Police Chief Hal Berriman said his new part-time Officer Devos will have to go through field training for two to three months full time to learn the ropes in Belleville.

As far as the fire department goes, Mayor Conley said they wouldn't look at cuts there since the proposal of having Van Buren Township do fire protection has yet to be settled. She said the offer from VBT is \$160,000 for fire protection, so they can't take the city's fire department budget below that figure.

City Manager Kollmeyer said the city fire department is down to 11 fire fighters now, but they are advertising and trying to hire more. She said the fire chief didn't submit a budget for his department and wasn't at Monday's meeting.

The Belleville Volunteer Fire Fighters Association's lawsuit against the city, clerk, and mayor is proceeding.

Toni Clark of Sumpter Township brought in a clipping from the April 19 *Detroit Free Press* that explains a 10-minute, online survey asking residents in Southeastern Michigan what they want in their communities.

It's being put on by the United Way for Southeastern Michigan. The survey for residents in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties is at: <https://unitedwaysem.org/united-way-community-survey-2018/>. It is about 10 questions and takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

About a year ago they started meeting with leaders from other nonprofit agencies to see what it could offer beyond just giving grants. One of the top responses was gathering and evaluating data. The United Way has set up an invitation-only data symposium for about 150 leaders for May 9 to share the survey responses and demonstrate how organizations can use data to inform decisions.



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BELLEVILLE-AREA INDEPENDENT

Established Dec. 3, 1994 First Edition Jan. 5, 1995

The Belleville-Area Independent is a free, weekly newspaper published each Thursday in Belleville, MI.

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Sports Editor: Bob Mytych

Bookkeeper: James Otzman

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Editorial Cartoonist: Bob Mytych

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Belleville Area Independent Holding Company, LLC
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Letters

Thanking the Sumpter Senior Center volunteers

To the editor:

National Volunteer Month is an opportunity to shine a light on the people and causes that inspire us to serve. The Sumpter Township Senior Center values each and every person who graciously donates their time and talent to make a difference in the lives of seniors in the community. I would personally like to take the time to recognize the following individuals for their generous service to the Sumpter Township Senior Center.

Every Tuesday and Thursday for the past year Virginia Belinski has donated her time to the amazing exercise program in the Community Center gymnasium. Jewel Butler helps in planning the Bible study, which is held on Tuesdays in the activity room. The Nutrition program has a magnificent team made up of Jackie McKenzie, Karen Mickens, Lettie Sanders, Karitha Hanible, Paulette Thompson, Barbara Thomason, and Christine Wenderski. These wonderful ladies who volunteer in the senior kitchen not only help to prepare meals but also, deliver, serve, and clean up afterwards, Monday through Friday. A big thank you to Dee Patterson, Beverly Powell, and Margaret Rochon, the commodity program volunteers. They assure food is packaged for our homebound seniors. We also like to thank nurse Sharon Romanos, who is available to do blood pressure testing, and Joe Wilson, who is kind enough to help out during the senior trips to the grocery store or running errands.

Bingo at the center just wouldn't be the same without Bonnie Rish calling numbers and Jackie Hanson, who assists getting seniors their coffee and cookies. A special thank you to Wanda Watkins and husband Joe who donate their time to the activities and events held at the Community Center. Thank you to Leona Mixon, who helps water all the beautiful plants throughout the center, and Patricia Shephard, who helps decorate for many of the events. She does such a superb job!

Many of the volunteers do more than one job, especially for big events like the Christmas party and the Black History celebration. Considering there's 365 days in a year to volunteer in Sumpter, I'm sure I forgot a few people. However, do not think your contributions have gone unnoticed because without you we couldn't accomplish many of the wonderful activities or events at the Sumpter Township Senior Center.

I am proud of all the volunteers who

make our community a better place to live. Again, thank you for your willingness to donate your time, energy and expertise. The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees appreciates all your dedication, hard work and effort you give to our community.

Your teamwork makes Sumpter Senior Center a great place!

Esther Hurst, Clerk
Sumpter Township

We need drivers to bring food from PO to church

To the editor,

Post Offices all around the United States will have a food drive to help those in need on Saturday, May 12. This is a huge event for the Belleville Food Closet. Most of the food collected is used all year long.

Many volunteers are needed to make it a success. We will need drivers with hauling-capable vehicles to bring the food from the Belleville Post Office to the church. We need sorters, packers, and recyclers.

If you can't help that day, another way to participate is by leaving a bag of non-perishable, non-expired food at your mailbox.

If you are able to help, please meet at the Belleville First United Methodist Church at 417 Charles Street, Belleville, MI 48111, at 11:30 a.m. for a short meeting. We plan to work from noon to 5 p.m. Any help will be greatly appreciated. You do not need to commit to all five hours.

If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Wood at (734) 397-1776.

Janette K. Renton, director
Belleville Food Closet

Inappropriate, foul, vulgar comments offend

To the editor,

Since the election of President Trump I've kept my political opinions to myself since this nation is so divided. But this has nothing to do with politics. This has everything to do with common decency.

Saturday, a so-called comedian with hate-filled eyes made comments about the Whitehouse Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders that went beyond inappropriate and turned into foul and went down to vulgar.

This is what our country has turned into. I know my closing statement will offend some and I'm sorry. But, I believe there is a place in heaven for Sarah Huckabee Sanders and fortunately she will not see this so-called comedian there.

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More Letters

Sumpter residents need to vote in every election

To the editor,

My name is Ronald Barrington Robinson. I've lived in Sumpter Township, Michigan, for over 20 years. I'm a retired lieutenant with 23 years service with the Michigan Department of Corrections. I live in a modest, four-bedroom, two-bathroom, fully furnished home with my family off Willis Road. I have a college degree in Criminal Justice. In fact, my daughter is an A student and has already been accepted to major U.S. colleges.

We do not live in an old dilapidated trailer on Martinsville Road with no electric, bathroom or running water, with trash and human waste thrown on the ground. This has been erroneously stated by some within the Sumpter, MI, Township Municipal Building and a small number of others around the community. We know who is responsible for these horrible, horrendous, and shameful smear tactics and lies.

I've traveled from one end of this township to the other, down every dirt and paved road in 2016 as a candidate for township trustee, and again as recently as one month ago. If this township is to welcome any new businesses, investments and new tax payers, why is there so much horrible blight everywhere? Especially, since my experience in the last 20 years there has been at least two ordinance officers or more with taxpayer supported wages of between \$50,000 to \$65,000 per year. How did the blight get so bad?

As an example, of the blight all one has to do upon leaving the Sumpter Township Administration Building is look across the street and see that blight, that old disgraceful rusting building that has been there for years. Is this what we want visitors to see when visiting our township? No.

I understand the war on blight will intensify. It's about time. My question is what have these ordinance officers, making in excess of \$50,000-plus per year of taxpayer dollars, been doing? Nothing much to eliminate the blight.

But there are consequences to this war on blight. We have a lot of home owners that are both mentally and physically handicapped. We have hundreds of elderly, poor taxpayers living in Sumpter Township that are barely surviving. How can these good citizens clean up their properties without assistance help from the township?

One way is to stop Opt-Out insurance payments that have taken its toll over the years to millions of dollars of taxpayer dollars. Last count for seven trustees the amount is about \$8,500 monthly or about \$1,200 each extra a month in addition to their trustee payments for four hours of work a month. WHY? There are other insurances available: Medicare, Medicaid, private insurances, spousal insurance, Sumpter Township insurances. These plans are considerably cheaper. But these seven

choose to accept our taxpayer dollars to support their greed and lavish lifestyles.

If these taxpayers cannot afford to clean up their properties, they will receive violations and appearance tickets to 34th District Court creating hardship and more dollars that they don't have. If they don't appear in court, a warrant for their arrest will be sought that may lead to jail. If they can't afford to pay for these court actions their properties could be placed with a lien, foreclosed upon and could be sold at auction. This is unconscionable.

Additionally, I still have a \$5,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of the ones that poisoned my horses in 2016 and the murder of one during my campaign for trustee.

My friends, please get out and vote at every election cycle. I will see you at the ballot box.

Ronald Barrington Robinson
Sumpter Township

Monroe Fine Art Fair seeking artists for August festival

The organizing committee for the 15th-annual Downtown Monroe Fine Art Fair is seeking painters, print makers, photographers, wood carvers, stained glass artists, jewelry makers, fiber artists sculptors, potters and other artists to participate in this year's festival.

This year's dates are Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 11 and 12. Saturday hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Booth space is \$100 for the two-day event. Artists must provide their own tents. Electricity is available upon request. Chairs and tables can be rented for a small fee.

Last year more than 90 artists were featured on East First Street and Washington Street in historic downtown Monroe, Michigan's

third-oldest city.

Applications are available on the festival website at: downtownmonroefair.com. Additional information can be obtained by email at: monroefair@gmail.com or by calling Jennifer at (734) 242-1472 or Bev at (734) 242-8308. The mailing address of the festival is: Monroe Fine Art Fair, P.O. Box 2601, Monroe, MI 48161.

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Obituaries



Jamie Paton

JAMES STEPHEN PATON

(May 24, 1949 – April 27, 2018)

Jamie Paton, age 68, of Sumpter Township, MI, died peacefully with his family by his side on Friday afternoon, April 27, 2018. He was born in Detroit, MI, son of John William & Geneva Lee (Fritts) Paton.

Jamie was a member of the Belleville High School Class of 1967. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army. He retired from Ford Motor Company's Rawsonville Road plant after 35 years. He was a member of Local 898. He loved fishing, hunting, and time spent with his family, especially his grandchildren. Mr. Paton is survived by Liz, his loving wife of 25 years, daughter Jodi (Dan) Parish of Belleville, MI, son Chris Paton of Taylor, six grandchildren Nick, Aaron, Summer, Keith, Aiden and Jacob, great-granddaughter Norah, three brothers John (Brenda) Paton of Catonsville, Maryland, Jerry Paton of Ypsilanti, MI and David Paton of Ypsilanti, also numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, son Paul Paton, and sister Janice Paton.

A memorial service will be held Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 1:00 PM in the main chapel of David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Drive, Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. The Paton family will greet guests from 11 AM - 1 PM. Pastor Robert Green will officiate. A procession will follow to Hillside Cemetery, Belleville, for burial of his cremated remains. The Wyandotte Honor Guard will perform full military honors.

Memorial contributions may be made to the wishes of the Paton family.

DAVID ALLEN WHEELER

(December 13, 1949 – April 26, 2018)

Age 68, of South Lyon, died at his residence. Survived by daughter Natisha (Robert) Clark of Farmington Hills; four grandchildren, 12 siblings. Service was April 29 at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.



SAMUEL I. DURHAM

Belleville, MI, resident Samuel I. Durham, 89, passed away April 14, 2018.

Samuel was born in Rutherford County, North Carolina.

He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather with five living generations at the time of his death. He loved fishing, growing vegetables, the mountains and bird watching.

He was a Korean War veteran and retired from the U.S. Army after serving his country for many years. He also retired from the Federal Bureau of Prisons, after working at the Milan Correctional facility.

He is survived by his son Samuel I. Durham, Jr., and daughters Mary (Durham) Arble and Shirley Durham; grandchildren Tina (Pemberton) Gillespie, Rachael (Pemberton) Porath, Stephanie Arble, and Michael Durham; great-grandchildren Mark Przytula II, Samantha and Jennifer Cole, Joshua Lowe and Jessica Porath; and great-great-granddaughter Anna Rushlow and great-great-grandsons Kamryn and Kayden Cole.

He will be missed greatly.

A private celebration of life was held at his home in Belleville and another will be held in North Carolina at a future date.

BERNARD 'BARNEY' CZAJKOWSKI

Bernard "Barney" Czajkowski, 68, of Belleville, MI and Mesa, AZ, passed away peacefully on Thursday, April 26, 2018. A Memorial Service will be held at a later date in Michigan. Please visit his obituary at www.mariposagardens.com. The family is being assisted by Mariposa Gardens Funeral Care.

More Obituaries on page 8

Students mark Arbor Day at Crosswinds Marsh in Sumpter Twp.

More than 150 students learned about the environment, while giving back to the community, during the third-annual Arbor Day event April 27 at Crosswinds Marsh Wetlands Interpretive Preserve in Sumpter Township, sponsored by Detroit Metropolitan Airport, Wayne County Parks, and their partners. Students came from Gesu Catholic School in Detroit and Renton Junior High School in New Boston.

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Obituaries



Joseph "Joe" Johnson

JOSEPH R. JOHNSON

(May 19, 2002 – April 25, 2018)

Joseph R. "Joe" Johnson, age 15, passed away suddenly Wednesday, April 25, 2018. He was born May 19, 2002 in Ann Arbor, MI.

Joe was a freshman at Belleville High School. He enjoyed riding his bike and spending time with his brother, sister, and niece. He was always quick to put a smile on your face with his humor.

He will be deeply missed by: his mother Lisa Kerns of Ypsilanti; his fathers, Keith Stumbo and Richard Mouat; sister Hailey Stumbo; brother Braedon Mouat; maternal grandmother Marie Kerns of Ypsilanti; maternal grandfather Don (Stella) Kerns of Jackson; niece Myra Wilson of Ypsilanti; and several aunts, uncles, and extended family who loved him dearly. Cremation has taken place. A celebration of his life will be 4-8 p.m. Thursday, May 3, 2018 at Stark Funeral Service, 101 South Washington St., Ypsilanti, (734) 482-4900, with the memorial service at 8 p.m. Contributions in his memory may be made to the family.

BHS home games

Here are the upcoming Belleville High School home athletic events:

- Thursday, May 3 -- Girls Varsity Tennis vs Dearborn HS, 4 p.m.; Boys Varsity Lacrosse vs Arbor Prep HS, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, May 5 -- JV Baseball vs Salem HS, 11 a.m. doubleheader
- Monday, May 7 -- Boys Varsity Golf vs Crestwood at Harbour Club GC, 3 p.m.; Varsity Baseball & Softball vs Garden City HS, 4 p.m.; Girls Varsity Tennis vs Lincoln, 4 p.m.; Girls JV Soccer vs New Boston Huron HS, 4:30 p.m.; Girls Varsity Soccer vs New Boston Huron HS, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 8 -- Boys & Girls Track vs Edsel Ford HS, 3:30 p.m.; Girls JV & Varsity Tennis vs Edsel Ford HS, 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 9 -- Boys JV Baseball vs Garden City HS, 4 p.m.; Girls JV Softball vs Garden City HS, 4 p.m.; Girls JV & Varsity Tennis vs New Boston Huron HS, 4 p.m.

Diane Kiessel
Belleville Athletic Secretary

Mother's Day brunch is May 7 at Romulus Senior Center

Romulus seniors are invited to Mayor LeRoy D. Burcroff's fifth-annual Mother's Day brunch starting at 10 a.m. Monday, May 7, at the Romulus Senior Center, 36525 Bibbins Street.

The Mayor said mothers – and fathers who also served as mothers – are welcome at the luncheon. Admission is free.

Senior Center Director Rose Swidan

said the meal will include sausage, gravy, biscuits, eggs, coffee and juice. Each person who RSVPs will receive a gift.

"I dedicate the luncheon to my own mom Shirley, who passed away in 1993 but remains in my heart and mind every day," the Mayor said. "I credit mom for helping make me the man I am today. Mrs. Burcroff

taught science and gym at Romulus High School while raising seven children. She was giving, kind and sweet, loving all of us unconditionally. Mothers are truly a blessing from God."

To RSVP or get more information, call the Romulus Senior Center at (734) 955-4120.

Armed robbery

(continued from page 1)

robbers was driving was reported to be a black Challenger. He said there were three or four people crowded in the car and one threw trash out the car window and seven to eight houses down someone got out of the car.

He said he picked up the trash and found it to be a cellphone case. He turned it into police and it was sent to the Michigan State Police to study as evidence.

"All because they littered," he said.

BHS student

(continued from page 1)

busiest time of the day for that roadway and motorists had to divert to the dirt roads of Martinsville or Elwell to get around the blockade. The train's engine was stopped just east of the South/Sumpter crossing and the long train stretched westward almost to Elwell.

Chief Berriman said the Belleville Police Department and responding agencies would like to thank the public for its understanding and patience during this difficult response.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call the Belleville Police Department at (734) 699-2710 (Monday through Friday until 5 p.m.) or Dispatch at (734) 699-2385,



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School Board approves contracts for Edgemont parking lot, lighting

By Rosemary K. Oztman

Independent Editor

The Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education on Monday approved expenditures not to exceed \$588,835 to complete the Edgemont Elementary parking lot and site lighting updates there.

These projects were scheduled to be completed as part of the Sinking Fund three-year plan. On March 30 a formal request for proposals was issued and on April 17 sealed bid proposals were received and opened.

A post-bid scope review meeting was held on April 19 and based on information from the meetings, the project team recommended T&M Asphalt Paving with its bid of \$483,662, low bid of five bids, and Osier & Son's Electric with its low bid of three bidders for \$45,173. In addition there is \$10,000 for a material testing allowance and \$50,000 for a construction

contingency budget.

The project was estimated to cost \$600,000.

The bid recommendations were presented by James Williams, Director of Plant Operations, and Rob Kakoczki of Plante Moran CRESA.

The two also presented the Sinking Fund proposal for district-wide access control/security upgrades at a cost not to exceed \$141,684. The contract was awarded to Progressive Hardware Suppliers, LLC, at a bid of \$128,804 plus a contingency budget of \$12,880.

The recommended bid includes installing card reader access control on all entry points to each elementary school and the two middle schools.

In other business at Monday's two-hour meeting the board:

- Approved the Schools of Choice Declaration Form for the fall semester,

offering an unlimited number of openings. If a student has been suspended in the last two years, the student is not accepted here, said School Supt. Pete Kudlak;

- Heard a lengthy update from Curriculum Director Jeff Moore on the state's data on student achievement and how it is difficult to make comparisons from year to year because the state changes the process. "We still have a long way to go," he told the board;

- Heard a presentation from Moore and Alissa McLean of Discovery Education on a Discovery Education Digital Leader Corps project for the district. Moore will present the request for a year's contract with its price tag at the board's May 14 meeting. McLean said it was created by the Discovery Channel;

- Approved a three-year contract with Van Buren Township for the township's use of school buses for transportation for its summer recreation programs. Supt. Kudlak said in the past the township would use the buses and then the school would send it a bill. Now the contract spells everything out. He said it has been vetted by attorneys on both sides;

- Approved renewal of the contract for another year with William D. Ford Center in the Wayne-Westland Community Schools which has been offering career technical classes to BHS students since 2010. About 100 BHS students are involved. Supt. Kudlak said Ford gets .25 FTE of the foundation allowance for each of the BHS students, plus \$50 per student;

- Approved 2017-18 general fund budget amendments as presented by Financial Director Shareen Barker. The changes include pulling \$1,400,771 out of the fund balance to balance the budget, leaving an unassigned fund balance of \$6,440,959, 11.78% of the total budget. There is another \$2,206,392 in the fund balance, but it has been assigned by the board of education to cover football turf replacement, enrollment reserve (50), and the WCRESA Enhanced Millage;

- Approved hiring Megan Holmes to teach Spanish at Belleville High School as of April 30;

- Approved Savage Elementary and

Edgemont Elementary schools requests for fourth graders to attend a May 16 Mud Hens game in Toledo, Ohio. Travel is by chartered bus;

- Heard Human Resources Director Abdul Madyun say exit interviews have been imbedded in all termination and resignation requests. It is paperless. He also said he has attended job fairs at Eastern Michigan University, where he talked to 12-15 candidates, and to Grand Valley State, where he talked to four candidates. "The teacher shortage is real," Madyun said, adding recruiters from Alaska and Nevada were also at the job fairs seeking teachers to hire;

- Heard Williams say he will be holding another online auction of unneeded school goods in May. He will put the information on the school web site, he said; and

- Heard Supt. Kudlak say raffles are being set up to help Rawsonville student Devon Turner, who is fighting cancer. He said CAF5 is leading the way and \$1 tickets will be sold in each school. He said many unusual items will be raffled off.

Samantha Anteau gives presentation at Alma College Honors Day

More than 90 Alma College students participated in Alma College's 22nd annual Kapp Honors Day program on April 5. This day provides a forum when traditional classes are canceled and students share their original research, creativity and talents with an audience of their peers.

In sessions spanning nearly eight hours, students perform in dance productions, give oral presentations of scholarly research, and lead poster discussions. With a multitude of the student body participating, other students are encouraged to attend as many presentations as possible both to support their fellow students and to learn from them.

Samantha Anteau, of Belleville, a senior at Alma, presented: "Wonder Woman: A Symbol of Feminist Ideology or Perpetuation of the Male Gaze?"



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Jennifer Trotter new CEO of Guiding Harbor in Belleville

Guiding Harbor in Belleville announces the selection of Jennifer Trotter, LMSW, as its new CEO.



Trotter started April 13, replacing Guiding Harbor's previous CEO Maria Lessnau who left the organization after many years of service to become executive director at Christ Child House in Detroit.

Trotter joins Guiding Harbor after more than 20 years as a social worker in child welfare. She has direct care experience in

foster care and family preservation. As a regional director at Judson Center, she was responsible for the oversight of program administration, staff development, fiscal management, proposal writing, program evaluation, planning and development for a variety of child welfare programs including statewide contracts, such as MARE (Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange) and Foster Care Navigators.

Most recently Trotter worked as a project manager at Samaritas where she drove strategic priorities toward the achievement of the organization's strategic plan.

New 34th District Court Attorney Magistrate is Lisa Robinson Martin

34th District Court Chief Judge Tina Brooks Green announces the appointment of Lisa Robinson Martin of Van Buren Township as part-time attorney magistrate for the court.

Presently, Court Administrator Alan Hindman also acts in the capacity of non-attorney magistrate. Following the groundbreaking ceremony for the new court, Hindman adds to his duties the oversight of the building construction project.

Judge Green said this will take significant time from Hindman's schedule, so Martin will help back up for Hindman, along with expanding services the court will be able to offer the public.

Pursuant to state law, the court asked the City of Romulus to approve this appointment, which it did at its April 23 meeting.

Martin and her husband, Van Buren Township Trustee Kevin Martin, have lived in VBT for 12 years. She unsuccessfully ran for 34th District Court judge in 2014.

Martin earned her undergraduate degree at Harvard University and her law degree from the University of Michigan and has been practicing law for 20 years, mainly in district courts.

Guiding Harbor, founded by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Michigan, in 1958, provides child caring and child placement services for abused and neglected children. Services include:

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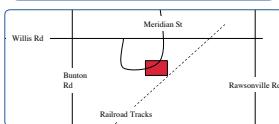
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From left, Maria Kasperek, Celeste Knapp, and Lauren Kim, sophomores at Washtenaw International High School in Ypsilanti, made up the CLM Team that won the 2018 Model Entrepreneur Competition in Santa Clara, CA.

Maria Kasperek on winning team

The CLM Team, made up of Washtenaw International High School sophomores Maria Kasperek, Celeste Knapp, and Lauren

Kim, won the 2018 Model Entrepreneur competition in Santa Clara, CA.

The CLM Team developed a proposal for Trekk, an App to link tourists to local tour guides, based on compatibility. Team CLM received \$1,500 and each member received a \$3,000 scholarship to attend a summer program at Harvard, Columbia, Stanford, Caltech, Berklee or Pratt. CLM is the first team from Michigan to enter the competition.

Model Entrepreneur is a global competition hosted by Columbia Business School's Venture for All Program, with the goal to encourage young talents to stand out from pure imagination and speak out innovative ideas with business feasibility.

Maria is the daughter of Martin and Vikki Kasperek of Sumpter Township, the granddaughter of Carol Kasperek and niece of Michael and Deanne Kasperek, all of Van Buren Township, as well as the granddaughter of Norman and Sylvia Moore of Dearborn.

Washtenaw International High School is located in Ypsilanti.

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Photo courtesy Jeffrey Riggs

Rawsonville students hear local professionals at Career Day event

Rawsonville Elementary School held its Career Day recently for students to hear from and interact with local professionals from many different industries and trades.

Participants included U of M Survival Flight nurse, Army National Guard, hair cutting professional, librarian, mathematician, police officer – sales/marketing company owners, photographer, medical home support, sociologist, Mary Kay consultant, attorney, and others.

Each presenter talked with students for 15 minutes to explain what they do, what it takes to do what they do, and how to prepare for these fun careers starting at an early age. The children were attentive, asked great questions and seemed to enjoy every presentation. It was a fun day packed with valuable information that may be a great influence on a child going forward.

Each presenter met with 8 different groups of children during the day, 15 minutes for each session, including grades

Kindergarten through fourth.

The event was organized by teachers Debby Cunningham, Spring Jackson and others on the Rawsonville staff.

Craft Show

Saturday, May 5, 2018

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

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All proceeds will go to Make-A-Wish Foundation.

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Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Today's paper includes inserts from Tractor Supply and the Croswell Opera House in Adrian featuring upcoming shows, concerts, and events this summer. To learn more on how you can have your advertisement or flyer inserted into this newspaper, call me at (734) 699 9020.

Robson's Greenhouse on Haggerty Road just north of Tyler Road is open for the season. Since 1929, the family owned and operated business has been growing plants and flowers. Choose from annuals, vegetables, specialty and potted plants, posey bags, hanging baskets and patio pots. They're open at 8 a.m. seven days a week.

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Garden Fantasy Greenhouse on Tyler Road near Morton Taylor is also open for the summer. Choose from flowers, vegetables, flats, hanging baskets, perennials, seeds, bagged soils and most of all, expert advice. They're open Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Sundays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call (734) 699-0505.

Harbour Club Golf Course is a 9-hole facility now open for the season with May Super Spring Specials on rates like week day 9-holes for \$5 walking and \$10 with cart. Weekends are \$8 walking and \$14 with cart. Also take advantage of golf memberships with \$100 off a single membership, \$150 off a family membership, and \$50 off for juniors, with their flyer available all over town, restaurants, etc. It's buy-one-get-one-free buckets at the driving range, too, now through May 15. Call (734) 699-8844 to make a reservation and get information on golf lessons, leagues, and outings. Harbour Club is also the home course for both BHS golf teams. Go Tigers!

Coldwell Banker Professionals of Belleville and CrossCountry Mortgage, Inc. have teamed up to present a Home Buyer Seminar next Tuesday, May 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. at 309 Main Street in Downtown Belleville. The free event will cover

the advantages of buying versus renting, etc. The seminar was scheduled a few weeks ago but was cancelled during the power outage that blanketed the area. Call (734) 697-1800.

Kwick Automotive at 541 East Huron River Drive in the former location of RK Automotive, is now open with a new owner and new management. They're a full-service repair facility offering competitive prices by expert mechanics on oil changes, brakes, suspension, A/C service, engine diagnostics and much more. They sell nearly all name-brand tires and will be holding a Good Year Tire Sale May 14-18. See store for details. They also have a huge selection of used tires. Towing is also available by Region Towing. They're open Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturdays by appointment. See their ad in today's paper and call James Potter, manager, at (734) 391-8218.

AFEM Site Services LLC Lawn Care is a professional landscaping, tree service, and lawn care and cutting provider based in Belleville looking to add some additional clients for the upcoming season. Call Alan Stoelton, manager, at (734) 756-8693.

Augusta Woods Manufactured Home Community in Willis will be holding a Spring Craft Show this Saturday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Clubhouse, located at 8338 N. Brookstone Drive, off Rawsonville Road just south of Bemis Road. Lunch will be available for \$4 with the proceeds going to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Admission is free.

It's Fish Day at the Willis Feed Mill in Willis on Tuesday, May 8, from 4-5 p.m. as the fish pond stocking truck will arrive with channel catfish, largemouth bass, red ear, bluegill, minnows, black crappie, and Koi, if available. To place an order, call 1-870-578-9773.

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Keystone board approves \$1,000 college scholarship for graduate

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

A \$1,000 college scholarship will be awarded to one of the Belleville High School seniors who had attended Keystone Charter Academy in Sumpter Township.

This is the first year the scholarship will be awarded and at its regular meeting April 12 the Keystone board approved \$500 from its funds to match the \$500 raised by said the Parent-Teachers Organization.

PTO president Shaylette Stuckey was present to explain the project, along with incoming PTO president Dawn Bandy. They said several elementary and middle schools in the area offer scholarships.

There is a scholarship ceremony each year at BHS and Keystone has never been there.

Stuckey said they are starting it at BHS this year to keep it small the first year and they have had six applications. They gave a notice to all students. The applications have been brought back to review.

The reviewing committee is made up of a teacher from each wing, Bandy, board president Vesta Losen and board secretary Connie Shull.

Stuckey said they put a 2.8 grade point average for applicants and all six are over 3.5, with some over 4.0.

Each applicant was required to submit a two-page essay on "perseverance" and have a reference from a teacher or counselor.

Stuckey said maybe next year they could get a valedictorian/salutatorian award for any high school.

Losen said this has been fomenting in her mind for several years since the board was awarded some money from National Heritage Academies.

Bandy said the PTO has been doing so much fund raising this year that they were able to do it.

"We didn't have the funds or we would have done it before," Bandy said.

Stuckey suggested the scholarship winner be guest speaker at the Keystone National Junior Honor Society induction.

For the first time, Keystone will be represented at the BHS awards assembly at 6:30, May 16.

In other business at the April 12 meeting the board:

- Nominated Jackie Babik for a seat on the school board after interviewing her. She said when she started volunteering when the school opened in 2003-4 there was no PTO and she put together the bylaws, did the PTO carnivals and other events. "She definitely has the passion," said Principal Keturah Godfrey. Babik said she and her girlfriend have run a house-painting business for almost 30 years. She makes her own schedule and takes time to help her daughter with her children. Her son Sam is now 24 and Michael is 22. NHA will do a reference check and other steps will be taken before she can be officially named to the board; and

- Noted another new board member is needed and this one needs to be a parent of a student. They will post it in the school newsletter. Board members Susan Meland, vice president, has resigned because she is moving to Wisconsin and Carol Manley, treasurer, resigned because her son is active in his new school and she wants to support his activities.

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Belleville High School senior Shawn Broadhurst signed to play soccer for 2018 at Bluffton University, a Christian liberal arts school in Bluffton, Ohio.

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Sumpter Twp. spends \$61,874 to upgrade cable system, board room

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

Deputy Supervisor Karen Armatis told the Sumpter Township Board that approval of spending \$61,874 would allow upgrade of the township's Channel 12 equipment and improve sound in the board room. It also would get 65-inch monitors on the wall for presentations and obstruction-free microphones flat on the table.

Elan Engineering's proposal was for \$31,874, with the total cost being \$61,874, Deputy Armatis said.

At its regular meeting on April 24, Deputy Armatis said that the township gets about \$120,000 from Comcast every year from fees paid by users, and the township wants to reinvest the money in new equipment for Channel 12. She said the equipment is 15 years old.

Channel 12 has not been working right for some time and, "Now, the cable is totally down," Armatis said.

She said the allocation would also pay for training in use of the equipment.

Treasurer Peggy Morgan asked who would be trained and Armatis said the equipment will be in the supervisor's office and she would be the one getting the training.

Treasurer Morgan recommended that others should also be trained as backup.

"It will be on my computer," Armatis said.

"It would be wise to have others," Morgan stressed.

"It's a good idea to have a backup," Armatis conceded.

Morgan said financial director Scott Holtz said the money is in the budget for the expenditure.

Attorney Rob Young said he is looking over the contract and any approval should stipulate that the attorney finalize the contract.

The board voted unanimously to approve the proposal, with Young's finalization of the contract.

In other business at the April 24 meeting, the board:

- Approved a four-year equipment maintenance agreement from Cummins to service the fire station generator, at

a total cost of \$1,472.86. Public Safety Director/ Police Chief Eric Luke said Huron Township, which provides emergency dispatch services for Sumpter, had the battery fail on its generator after the recent storm. Chief Luke said the fire department's generator was wired a long time ago and it will be rewired to serve all of the fire hall. "In my opinion, now it's being wasted. It's big enough to do the whole building," Luke said. He said the generator ran for almost three days after the storm the previous week. He said Huron Township's failure caused chaos, but Sgt. Beth Egerer and the fire department made communications work;

- Approved purchasing a one-year subscription to Fire Rescue 1 Academy online training for the fire department, at a cost of \$2,054. Chief Luke said the police department has been using the online training for three years. He said they put policies and procedures on there and officers go over one or more a month. He said it is a good supplement to hands-on training;

- Approved the purchase of two Ford Interceptor Utilities (Explorers) from Atchinson Ford at a total cost of \$64,844.16. Trustee Don Swinson abstained from the vote because he works at Atchinson Ford. The fully marked police vehicles should be ready by August. Chief Luke said they will replace the 2006 Explorers that were never intended as pursuit vehicles. He said Atchinson matches the state bid price;

- Approved the purchase of a backup storage server for the police department from CDW-G using funds from the forfeiture account, at a cost of \$4,461.12;

- Approved the resignation, with regrets, of Ronald Barnette from the fire department. It was explained he can't make the minimum fire runs required each month because he took a job with 12 hour work days;

- Declared May as Honor and Remember Month in Sumpter and presented a proclamation to Leroy Paige. The board also took turns reading a list of Hometown Heroes that served in the military. Mary Sherwood's brother-in-law who had a Willis mailing address but lived in Sumpter

was not included in the list. She was assured Foster Sherwood would be added to the list in the future. Paige also asked Sumpter to fly the Honor and Remember flag from its flagpole for the month of May;

- Accepted two changes regarding long-term disability and retiree insurance benefits with AFSCME Local 1882 in an effort to align existing benefits with the law and IRS rules. Young said the changes deal with the consolidation of their years of service for two unions for Randy Lynch and Sue Dufrane;

- Reminded everyone the next board meeting on May 8 has been cancelled because of the Airport School election;

- Heard Trustee Swinson report Parks and Rec is working on the upcoming festival and the Parks and Rec building looks real good now that the outside building work is done. He reported that Menards in Van Buren Township is putting the new mezzanine in and cutting windows into the new walls;

- Heard Young report the previous Thursday there was a meeting on the library lease of the hexagon building. A Hennessey engineer will inspect the building and be able to provide oversight on the project. "He'll do enough work to keep things going and then come to the board" with recommendations, the potential cost, and the bidding process;

- Heard Treasurer Morgan said she would



Leroy Paige, left, was honored with a proclamation presented by Sumpter Township Supervisor John Morgan during the board's April 24 meeting. The board proclaimed May as "Honor and Remember Month" and agreed to fly the Honor and Remember flag in front of the township hall during May. Paige, of Sumpter Township, is one of the statewide leaders of the Honor and Remember organization that honors the families of military veterans who didn't die in combat.

like to see the financial director's approval of expenditures on the agenda. Supervisor John Morgan said expenditures are run by Holtz before they go on the agenda, but Treasurer Morgan said she had to go

(continued on page 17)

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Sumpter Twp.

(continued from page 16)

to Holtz to run everything by him from this agenda. Clerk Hurst said in the future Holtz will get agendas to review;

- Heard Trustee Sheena Barnes, who had been on the township's medical marijuana committee, ask about the large packet of information just given to board members concerning "Colorado Rules." Young said a study was undertaken by Colorado to get information on increase in crimes, auto related matters and marijuana, property values, and other matters. He said he is continuing to gather information. Barnes reminded him, "We opted out...I'm confused. We didn't get any of this during the committee work. I am a caregiver. What are we telling them on the overage for the caregivers?" Young said 12 plants per patient, 72 total. "That's what you're allowed under Medical Marijuana Act. You have no legal right to sell it." Barnes said the overages can be sold to a dispensary even though the township has opted out. She said she has been doing research and 12 plants per patient produces a lot

of marijuana. It's impossible to not grow over, she said. "One plant yields more than three or four pounds of marijuana," she said. Barnes said when the industry comes in to grow marijuana, "What is the plan to protect the caregivers?" Chief Luke said under the MMA, there is no way to sell to dispensaries. "We need to follow state law." Barnes asked what are the caregivers going to do with their extra marijuana. Chief Luke replied: "State law dictates what MMA caregivers can do and I'm in no position to change the law";

- Heard Trustee Don LaPorte report that a state contractor has cleaned up the northwest corner of Willis and Sumpter roads and removed 350 tons of contaminated soil. He said there had been a gas station at the site at one time and under the cement slab they discovered and removed an old storage tank. He said there had been a strong odor of gas there and the DEQ and State of Michigan contracted with DELZ to do the work. He said they will leave it reclaimed so it is like there never was a gas station there;

- Also heard LaPorte report that a few months ago the board approved sending two old brush trucks to auction. He said they got a total of \$11,450 for the two and they will buy training props for the fire department. He said they bought those two trucks in the 1990s and sold them in 2018;

- Heard LaPorte report that the fire department got 16 calls on Easter Sunday. He asked the residents to please do no open burning. He said Sumpter recently was called to assist Huron Township Fire Department. A man in Huron lost his barn and all the contents from a neighbor burning leaves;

- Heard Karen Mickens announce that her project this year is to collect a new pair of pajamas or night gown for each of the 115 residents at Cedar Creek assisted living in Van Buren Township. She asked people to drop them off at the senior center. Mickens said this is a good time to shop for nightwear because it's on sale now;

- Heard Mary Ban ask about the blight on Sherwood Road near Banotai Park. She said junk cars and debris is a problem there. She asked if the ordinance department could check out there. Chief Luke said she would get faster service if she would just call it in. "We may have it on the radar already," he said; and

- Heard Ban again plead with the board to pass a resolution asking Van Buren Township to fix the 48111 problem that has led to many people in Sumpter getting identified automatically as living in Van Buren Township. When she tries to get her address changed back to Belleville, officials say they can't overrun the system. People in the city of Belleville also are being labeled Van Buren Township. After much discussion, attorney Young said he would look into the problem and may write a resolution for the board to consider.

Forty-seven BHS students inducted into National Honor Society

Following Friday's induction of five new Distinguished Graduates into the Belleville High School Hall of Fame, 47 BHS students were inducted into the National Honor Society.

NHS inductees are: Haley Bellingham, Cailin Bishop, Olivia Bodendam, Zsarek Boone, Jasmyn Bragg, Cassidy Brendtke, Kayla Byrd, Ariana Carson, Alyssa Church, Lauryn (Frankie) Cramer, Gabrielle DeLibera, Michelle Eau Claire, Carter Edwards, Abigail Emerson, Melissa Etzel, Cameryn Fallon, Tatiyana Foley, Khouri Fountain, Megan Fowler, Jenna Garland, Kayla Gleneski-Germain, Myranda Ivey, Benjamin Jeng, Jason Johnson, Hiba Kabir, Mahdi Kabir, Brooklyn Keele, Alyssa Leader, Connor Majewski, Lauren Marshall, Paige McGowan, Cole McNulty, Chelsea Mihaly, Madison Mikulski, Emma Mitchell, Jason Moses, Gracie Overby, Ashna Patel, Robert Pause, Nayah Pitts, Jiyahna Price, William (Brock) Rhodes, Anisha Sharma, Jocelyn Smith, Shane Tinsley, Marc Titsworth, and Chandler Wilson.

Sealed bids received on property owned by Sumpter Township

These are the sealed bids received on properties owned by Sumpter Township that were offered for sale last fall. The bids were opened at 3 p.m., Nov. 3.

The bids were released to the *Independent* after a recent Freedom of Information Act request. The bold-face, high bids are the winning bids, which total \$92,706.

- Parcel 11 -- 81-079-99-0012-000 -- 7.03 acres on Karr Road -- bid: **\$25,501.00** by DJT Development

- Parcel 16 -- 81-086-99-0008-709 -- 2.83 acres at 45021 Dunn -- bids: **\$3,600.00** from Selwa; \$3,001.00 from First Step Properties; \$1,000 from Hoffman

- Parcel 21 -- 81-088-01-0022-000 -- 5 acres on Martinsville -- bid: **\$10,000.00** from Folks

- Parcel 27 -- 81-102-01-0051-000 -- 5 acres on Martinsville -- bid: **\$1,001.00** from Torres

- Parcel 33 -- 81-108-99-0004-700 -- 5 acres on Martinsville -- bid: **\$5,102.00** from Pittman

- Parcel 41 -- 81-125-99-0006-000 -- 5.03 acres on Elwell -- bids: **\$6,001.00** from Torres; \$5,000.00 from Bunker--

- Parcel 42 -- 81-127-99-0008-000 -- 10 acres on Karr -- bids: **\$10,000.00** from Bunker; \$8,500.00 from Selwa; \$8,000.00 from Moe; \$5,001.00 from First Step Properties

- Parcel 43 -- 81-129-99-0003-000 -- 8.33 acres on Sumpter -- bid **\$2,001.00** from First Step Properties

- Parcel 44 -- 81-130-99-0003-000 -- 5.09 acres on Arkona -- bids: **\$5,000.00** from Torres; \$2,600.00 from Selwa; \$777.00 [no name given]

- Parcel 45 -- 81-130-99-0010-709 -- 2.55 acres on Executive -- bid: **\$6,000.00** from West

- Parcel 49 -- 81-135-99-0022-700 -- 10 acres on Oakville Waltz -- bids: **\$8,500.00** from Selwa; \$2,501.00 from Pittman

- Parcel 52 -- 81-114-99-0007-000 -- 6.15 acres at 25900 Karr -- bid: **\$10,000.00** from Moe

The three bids from First Step Properties were submitted by Sumpter Trustee Matthew Oddy. Parcel 43 on Sumpter Road, for which he had the winning bid of \$2,001, is now up for sale through a Realtor for \$49,000.

- Rosemary K. Otzman, editor

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New Boston, Michigan
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CASH OR CHECK ONLY
TO PLACE AN ORDER CALL 1-870-578-9773
ARKANSAS PONDSTOCKERS, INC.

ARE YOU IN NEED OF LAWN CARE?

Neighborhood Clean Up Action

All home sites will be viewed upon notification for a thorough assessment prior to scheduling an appointment. You must be at least 55 years of age living within Van Buren Charter Township area with no viable means to get your yard work completed. Please call us by May 31, 2018 to schedule an assessment of your property.

Disclaimer: We are a one time service community outreach group not a professional landscaping company.

734.699-8900 ext. 9293.

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Cell: (734) 730-9733

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

NOTICE is hereby given that on May 12, 2018 at 12:00 p.m., Full House Self Storage at 7886 Belleville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111 is holding a public auction. Unit(s) may or may not include the following: household items, recreational items, appliances, furniture, misc.

0715, S960 & S962, Terry Booth; E208 & E210, Michael Conn; P770, John Bartush; P784, Samuel Johnson; K657, Shunya Cleveland.

Publish: April 26, 2018, May 3, 2018

GARAGE/YARD SALE

MAY 10, 11 & 12, 9am-4pm. Antiques, collectibles & other great stuff. 46100 Bemis Rd., Belleville. Rain or shine. 05/10

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE. 6 houses/16 families. 18856 Savage (corner of Clark). May 10, 11 & 12, 9am-5pm. Tools, toys, clothes, household goods. 05/10

LOTSOFEVERYTHING. May 10, 11, & 12, 9am-5pm. 41500 Bemis Rd, Belleville. 05/10

FOR SALE

BLUE JAZZY REBUILT ELECTRIC Power Chair. New battery. Runs like new. \$600. (734) 363-4718 05/03

WURLITZER 3 keyboard organ, digital system, std. size, dark walnut w/bench. A must see! (734) 941-8143. \$300 OBO. 05/10

HEAVY DUTY TOW-DOLLY. U-Haul style. New tires with spare. \$1,600 OBO. Ask for Dave (734) 461-9699. Leave message if not home. 05/10

STARR BOAT LIFT. 3,000# cap. \$650 OBO. Good condition. You remove from Belleville Lake. (734) 697-5836. Ask for Bob. 05/10

500lb. BOAR HOG. \$100. Call (734) 270-2583 or cell (734) 740-0845 05/17

1960 13' FIBERGLASS white pleasure speedboat w/trailer. 20hp Johnson motor (rebuilt 2010). Shrink-wrapped since 2012. Good condition. \$900 firm. (517) 304-5529 05/17

16' PELICAN CANOE. Good condition. Spartan green. \$350 or trade for Kayak. On Belleville Lake & ready for the season. (517) 304-5529 05/17

FOUND

2 PAIR GLASSES misplaced in my car. Please call (734) 697-7805 & identify. 05/10

VEHICLE FOR SALE

1999 CHEVY LUMINA. Reliable. Runs well. Seats 6. \$1,000. (734) 481-0670 05/10

2001 FORD RANGER. 143,000 miles. Runs good. \$1,575. (734) 260-0007 05/17

2005 DODGE DAKOTA, quad cab. 3.7L, silver, 1 owner, 95K. Good mechanical condition. Tonneau cover. \$3,700. (734) 699-6867 05/17

2004 LINCOLN TOWN CAR. Black, loaded, 68K miles. Great condition. \$5,000 firm. (734) 502-0243 05/17

2002 SATURN SC COUPE. 5-speed. Very good condition. 16" custom wheels & rims. Low miles. \$2,650. (734) 695-0819 05/17

1998 CADILLAC SEDAN DEVILLE. Immaculate inside & out. One of a kind. \$3,650. (734) 695-0819 05/17

2007 FORD FREESTYLE SUV. Loaded. Like new. Drop down TV. \$4,500. (734) 695-0819 05/17

1998 MUSTANG COUPE. V-6, automatic. No rust. Runs good. \$2,450. (734) 697-0819 05/17

1998 VOLKSWAGON. New tires, new water pump, new timing belt & new rack & pinion. \$2,500 OBO (734) 294-8786 05/17

HOMES FOR SALE

Remodeled home in Haggerty Sub (Jackson & Lincoln). 3-bedrooms, 2-baths, 24'x27' heated garage. Mechanic's dream. All appliances stay. Prequalified buyers only. By appointment only. Price \$136,000. Veterans get 0% down. (734) 325-7830 leave message.

BELLEVILLE LAKE, 1,723 sq.ft., 3-bedrooms, 2-full baths, 4-Anderson 8' doorwalls w/full view of lake. Ceramic tile in kitchen & dining rooms. Basement tiled & drywalled. 2-car garage w/12'x24' storage addition. \$320,000. (734) 697-8336 05/10

CONDO FOR SALE

CAPE CONDOS ON HURON RIVER Drive. 2 bedrooms. Lake access. New carpet, paint, water heater, furnace & hardwood floors. \$120,000. Tim. (734) 929-0399 05/03

WANTED

WANTED: SCRAP CARS

True II Life Towing
(313) 268-3452
Call for all your Towing Needs

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Cash For Salvage & Scrap Vehicles.
7 Days. Free Towing.
Licensed & Insured.
(734) 223-5581

WANTED – ANY SIZE MEN'S JEANS for the homeless. Please drop off at Bladez's 601 E. Huron River Drive. (734) 697-5600 TFN

WANTED – SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

FREE PICKUP OF UNWANTED appliances, lawn equipment, bicycles & any type of scrap & farm metal. John (734) 644-4008 05/24

WORK WANTED. I can provide child care or elder care and cleaning. (734) 334-8411 05/10

FEMALE looking for a quiet room to rent. Relocating to the Belleville area. (214) 406-6888 or (734) 309-9947 05/03

I have a 22' pontoon & it needs to rent a home/slip on Belleville Lake. (734) 239-3158 05/10

WANTED. Two-bedroom apartment to rent for a mother & adult son. Have pets. Call (734) 560-0634. Thank you in advance. 05/17

"Reality leaves a lot to the imagination."

– John Lennon

SERVICES

TEMPORARY AIRBRUSH TATTOOS. Birthday parties, graduation, all occasions. Lasts 5-10 days. (586) 980-1942. Ask for Jo. 05/17

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LOCAL HANDYMAN – SOME Jobs too LARGE – NO JOB too SMALL. LICENSED & REFERENCES. (734) 765-9224 TFN

LARRY'S HANDYMAN SERVICE. No job too small. Interior/exterior painting & hang wall paper. Power washing. Carpentry. Senior discount. (618) 267-7774 09/27

GRAVEL DRIVEWAY REPAIR. Regrading and leveling. Free estimates. (734) 355-3582 05/17

DEPENDABLE LAWN SERVICE COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL. Lawn cutting – Aerating – Mulch – Shrub Trimming – Spring Clean-up – Power Raking – Sod & Seeding. (734) 587-2410 or (734) 693-4712 06/28

INDEPENDENT CLASSIFIED ADS

HELP WANTED

AREA TRAINEE for local Real Estate Firm. For appointment call. (734) 697-1800

KOVALAK EXCAVATING. CDL Truck Driver. (734) 461-6838 or resume to kovalak@comcast.net

KOVALAK EXCAVATING. Full-time construction laborer. Start immediately. Motivated to work. No experience necessary. Driver's license required. (734) 461-6838

KOVALAK EXCAVATING. Secretary, full or part-time w/phone & computer skills. (734) 461-6838 or resume to kovalak@comcast.net

HELP WANTED

NEEDED PART-TIME OUTDOOR cleaner/Gardner. Spring clean-up. Call Fred (734) 325-7211 for further details.

DENTAL ASSISTANT needed. Part-time for Romulus office. Willing to train. (734) 941-0010

LAKEVIEW TAVERN, 584 Main, is looking for a bartender. Experienced only. (734) 697-8121

HANDYMAN for yard clean-up. Raking, sweeping & trimming. Call Terry (734) 697-7777

CAREGIVER for an 85 year old male. 2-3 hours/day for 3-4 days/week. (734) 693-3659

FREE

FREE FILL. Delivery available. (734) 697-1183. Yost Sand & Gravel, Belleville.

HOSPITAL BED. Never used. Manual & electric lift. You pick-up. (734) 645-6697

Upcoming Meetings

- Monday, May 7 – Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m. but will start early at 6 p.m. to discuss budget.
- Tuesday, May 8 – Van Buren Township Local Development Financing Authority, 2 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Board of Zoning Appeals at 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m. Also, Sumpter meetings cancelled because of Airport Schools election.
- Wednesday, May 9 – Van Buren Township Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, May 10 – Keystone Academy School Board, 6 p.m. Also, Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m., if needed. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7:30 p.m.

Notice to Advertisers:

The *Belleville-Area Independent* will not be liable for failure to publish an ad as requested or for more than one incorrect insertion of an advertisement. In the event of any error or omission in printing or publication of an advertisement, you must notify us within five days of publication or on the date of insertion, if an ad is scheduled as part of a package, so there is time to correct subsequent publications. The *Independent's* liability shall be limited to an adjustment for the cost of the space occupied by the error with a maximum liability being cancellation of the cost of the first incorrect advertisement or republication of the corrected advertisement. Under no circumstances shall the *Independent* be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, May 3, and Friday, May 4** -- September Days Senior Center is holding its annual Flea Market from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with all proceeds benefitting the senior center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township.

• **Saturday, May 5** -- Annual Perennial Plant Swap will take place from noon to 1 p.m. at the Belleville Area District Library Courtyard sponsored by the Friends of the Library in cooperation with the Belleville Area Garden Club. Adults and children are invited to bring perennials to swap.

• **Saturday, May 5** -- Friends of the Library Used Book Sale at the Belleville Area District Library, noon to 3 p.m. Buy One, Get One Free. Friends may shop early beginning at 11 a.m. All proceeds benefit the library.

• **Saturday, May 5** -- Annual clean up of the lakeshore by the BYC and volunteers. Starts on North Liberty Street on the lake.

• **Saturday, May 5** -- Craft Show, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Augusta Woods Clubhouse, 8330 N. Brookston Drive, Willis 48191. Lunch will be available for \$4 per plate. All proceeds will go to Make-A-Wish Foundation.

• **Wednesday, May 9** -- Chicken Supper at Willow United Methodist Church, 36925 Willow Rd., New Boston, 5 p.m. until sold out. Carry outs start at 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person; children 12 and under \$5 each. Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, biscuits & gravy, cole slaw, dessert, coffee, hot tea, milk. Information: (734) 654-9020.

• **Sunday, May 13** -- Free Sunday Music, 2-5 p.m., at September Days Senior Center, 46425 Tyler Road, Van Buren Township. Music today by 18 Strings. Information: Jimmy Baleja, (734) 223-4824 or Lynette Jordan, (734) 699-8918.

Birthdays

- May 1 -- Kaylee McArthur
- May 2 -- Bruce Driver
- May 4 -- Evelyn Crispell
- May 5 -- Ashley Rains
- May 6 -- James Demond
- May 7 -- Terri Morioka
- May 9 -- Dawn Edrice, Marilyn Locke
- May 10 -- Gina Bacom
- May 11 -- Sylvia Sala
- May 12 -- Verlinda Hinton
- May 17 -- Debra Seiter Varga
- May 19 -- James Otzman
- May 21 -- Cheyanne Broome
- May 26 -- Don Posegay
- May 27 -- Marion Reynolds

Do you have a birthday in May? Does anyone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED

Quest, Inc. is HIRING

We're looking for fun, energetic & caring Direct Care Workers to assist persons with special needs we serve in their own homes.

Applicants must be:

- Responsible & committed and work well with others.
- Have a clean criminal record.
- Be available for training. MORC/WCHO/CLS Training is preferred.

Send Letter/Resume to:
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or Call (734) 458-8140



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Community Ambassadors • Junior Organizational Assistants
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Van Buren Township, MI 48111

734.699.8900 ext. 9293

www.vanburen-mi.org



More Letters

Simply ask Ms. Frazier to resign as trustee

To the editor,

I wonder at what point the public may decide that our elected officials are no longer to be trusted and perhaps anarchy will eventually envelop our nations streets? Today, in Washington, we have a Congress and a president who either cannot or will not act appropriately for the benefit of the nation. These individuals constantly lie or completely misconstrue plausible facts that challenge and confront the American people and the sanctity of our Constitution nearly every day.

Most individuals begin their ascension into politics at the local government level. School boards and library councils are just one pathway to township, city, and state public office positions. However, nowhere is it considered permissible to lie, steal or cheat once the responsibility is awarded for elected public servants to represent their constituents!

During Paul White's tenure as township supervisor the citizens of this community

were subjected to four years of turmoil and deception while Paul White couldn't even censure one trustee who deliberately released wild raccoons onto the property adjacent to Sandy's Marina. Now he defends Trustee Frazier's conduct of "admitted shoplifting" just as if she was innocent of the accusations because she pleaded innocent at her arraignment in Taylor. This is absurd behavior for people placed in the position of trust and the protection of our township assets.

Ms. Frazier should have pleaded "guilty to the charge of retail fraud" and begged the magistrate for leniency and probation. That would have been the right thing to do. Instead, if Macy's doesn't drop the charges altogether, the court may have to hold a trial and seat a jury that will even further waste taxpayer dollars. This nonsense of Constitutional right of "presumed innocence until proven guilty" would have been sustained by the law had Ms. Frazier denied stealing during her arrest and while paying restitution for the items found in her possession in the parking lot outside of the Macy's Store.

However, since there are rumors indicating that there may have been other episodes of similar transgressions in her past, I wonder if the court may look unfavorably upon

her attorney's arguments when he presents his defense, especially since her guilt has already been admitted to by Trustee Frazier herself on televised media?

Now where does that leave us citizens when it comes to her punishment and the consequences of her actions? We could recall her, which is time-consuming, tedious, and divisive. We could petition the township board to pursue the governor's intervention, which isn't very likely! Or, perhaps we could simply ask Ms. Frazier to resign -- a very feasible solution. Either way, since the consequences of stealing are burdensome on retail store owners and very often theft is the leading factor in business failures due to the narrow profit margins that markets are measured by, then store closures, followed by mall closures, neighborhood abandonment and eventually a ghetto community leaves its ugly scar on society.

Paul White is always first to jump to the

defense of his favorite board companions and he stands ever determined to act as if he knows everything about law -- which obviously he doesn't! Even worse, he refuses to seek remedial disciplinary measures as if nothing is wrong and no injury or deception was committed.

CeJay Marshall
Van Buren Township

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On The Web!**

**The Belleville-Area
Independent Website
is Online! Visit us @
bellevilleareaindependent.com**

Sumpter Township Public Notice

SUMPTER TOWNSHIP NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST FOR A ZONING VARIANCE

The Sumpter Township Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111 at 7:00 pm, Thursday, May 31, 2018 regarding the request for a dimensional variance.

NATURE OF THE REQUEST

1. The township is in receipt of an application requesting dimensional variances from Section 5.3(a)(4)A. and Section 5.3(a)(4) of the zoning ordinance. The first request is seeking to construct an accessory structure of greater size than the existing principal structure; the second request is seeking a 200 square foot gross floor area increase for accessory structures on parcels 1.01 acres to 3 acres in size. The site for the variances is located at 11773 Rawsonville Rd., Belleville, MI 48111.

This Public Hearing has been scheduled in accordance with the requirements of Public Act. 168, Section 0 of 1959 (amendments to the Township Rural Zoning Act. P.A. 184) to provide all interested citizens an opportunity to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss in detail all aspects of the proposed use.

For those unable to attend the Public Hearing, written comments may be submitted to the Township Clerk's Office prior to the hearing date.

Esther Hurst
Clerk
Sumpter Township

Published: May 03, 2018

Sumpter Township Public Notice

**Sumpter Township
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 10, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
23480 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111
Minutes**

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Morgan at 6:30 pm. Roll call: Supervisor J. Morgan and Treasurer P. Morgan, Trustees: Oddy, LaPorte, Barnes and Swinson. Excused absence: Clerk E. Hurst. Also showing present: Attorney Young, Deputy Clerk Hadyniak and approximately 29 residents.

3. Agenda: Motion by Oddy, supported by Swinson to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

4. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only: Public comment began at 6:31 p.m. No comments were received. Ended 6:31 p.m.

5. Minutes:

A. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2018. Motion carried.

B. Motion by Barnes, supported by Swinson to approve the Public Hearing Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2018. Motion carried.

6. Warrants: Motion by Oddy, supported by P. Morgan to approve the Warrants totaling \$361,770.75. Roll call vote: Yes: Swinson, Oddy, LaPorte, Barnes, P. Morgan, J. Morgan. Excused absence: Hurst. Nay: None. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Water & Sewer Report-P. Morgan: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to Receive and File the Water & Sewer Report. Motion carried.

8. Police Report-Luke:

A. Severe Weather Awareness Week from April 8th - 14th. Sumpter Township will not be activating our sirens.

B. Chief Luke recognized all of the 2017 officers for the good deeds and actions on the Police force. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve the Police Report. Motion carried.

9. Building/Ordinance Report-Barnes: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to Receive and File the Building/Ordinance Report. Motion carried.

10. Fire Report-Januszyk: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to Receive and File the Fire Report. Motion carried.

11. Treasurer's Report-P. Morgan: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to Receive and File the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

12. Supervisor Report-J. Morgan:

A. Employees at Sumpter Township raised over 1,050 rolls of toilet paper for the Community Outreach program.

B. Belleville Library will be having their ground breaking ceremony on April 14th at 11:00 am.

C. Methodist Church in Belleville will be having a concert at 7:00 pm.

Clerk's Office Announcements:

A. Precinct #5 has been moved from Bessie Hoffman to the Community Center.

B. Last day to file petitions for the three (3) Board positions at Sumpter Township is April 24th at 4:00 pm.

C. Tuesday, May 8th is a Special Election for the Airport School District. Sample ballots and absentee ballots are available in the Clerk's Office.

Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve the Supervisor Report. Motion carried.

13. Attorney Report-Young: No report.

Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve the Attorney Report. Motion carried.

14. Board Response:

A. Trustee LaPorte advised the residents to have a plan for severe weather.

B. Check smoke detectors.

C. Leafs/compost can be taken to the Carleton Farm's Landfill at no additional cost.

15. New Business:

A. Motion by Oddy, supported by Barnes to approve with regrets the demotion of Don LaPorte from Health & Safety Officer to firefighter status. Motion carried.

B. Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to approve cancelling the May 8, 2018 regular scheduled Board Meeting due to the Special Election held on the same day. Motion carried.

C. Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to approve the quotes from IT Right to purchase a new server, cisco firewall and remote backup for offsite locations, *at a cost of \$4,996.50. Motion carried.

D. Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve the fireworks display by Great Lake Firework during the Sumpter Country Festival on May 27th. Rain day will be May 28th. Motion carried.

16. Announcements:

A. Public access computer is available in the Supervisor at no charge for the resident's.

17. Open Floor: Two (2) people spoke.

18. Adjournment: Motion by P. Morgan, supported by Oddy to adjourn at 7:15 pm. Motion carried. Minutes prepared by,

Dawn Hadyniak

Deputy Clerk, Sumpter Township

* Added to agenda during April 10, 2018 Regular Board meeting.

Certification

I, Esther Hurst, Clerk of Sumpter Township, do hereby certify that the following is a true copy of minutes taken at a Regular Board Meeting of the Township of Sumpter Board of Trustees on April 10, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the Sumpter Township Hall, 23480 Sumpter Road, Belleville, MI 48111, County of Wayne, and that the said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meeting Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976, and that the minutes were kept and will be available as required by said act.

Esther Hurst, Clerk
Publish: May 3, 2018

Belleville DDA to consider VBT's request for weed-cutting money

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its regular meeting on April 18, the Belleville Downtown Development Authority agreed to consider Van Buren Township's request for a financial contribution to help cut the brush and trees along parts of two bridges into the city.

DDA Coordinator Carol Thompson and Belleville City Manager Diana Kollmeyer had received a March 29 letter from VBT Director of Public Services Matthew Best which said:

"As part of our spring maintenance program, Van Buren Township has gotten a quote (\$3,400) for brush and tree clearing along the west side of the Belleville Road bridge and the north side of the Denton Road bridge ... Van Buren, Belleville and the VBT DDA all have a vested interest in this area. The Township is going to move ahead with this work, barring any objection. We are offering the City to be a part of this clean-up effort. The VBT DDA has committed \$565 toward this cleanup. A contribution from either the City or the Belleville DDA would make this another great example of how the City and Township are working together to make our community better. We are a few weeks away from the work being done, which gives you time to discuss this. Let me know if you are interested or not in contributing toward this effort..."

Thompson said the township checked with Wayne County and they wouldn't be able to do any brush-cutting there until late in the season.

DDA chairman Rosemary Loria said they need to check to see how they can do it legally, since it is VBT property.

Thompson said the township wants to do the project sooner rather than later and wants to do it early before the season's growth begins.

"We want it done," said Mayor Kerreen Conley, who sits on the DDA. "It would be a win-win."

"It's not technically our responsibility, but you see it when you come over the bridge," Loria said.

Councilman Tom Fielder, who was in the audience, pointed out that just one side of each bridge was to be cut and Belleville's side wasn't included.

"Is there a benefit to a joint program?" he asked, noting it was "a reasonable, reasonable price."

Kollmeyer said the county has a machine that cuts both sides of the barrier along the bridge at once, but the city doesn't know if or when it's coming. She said last year the township's student employment group did some work there, but not all of the cutting.

She said the city gets a lot of calls from people who walk over the Denton bridge into the city and are put into the dangerous roadway because the walkway is overgrown.

The DDA agreed it would be good to include the Hayward's side of the Denton Road bridge for embankment clearing, but not the Doane's Landing side of the Belleville Bridge because of the seawall repair work expected there.

Thompson said they may be able to get a price from the contractor (Gonczy's Property Maintenance) to add the Hayward's side while he's there.

DDA Treasurer Sabrina Richardson Williams said while the VBT DDA gave \$565, the Belleville DDA is smaller and maybe should give half that.

Thompson said she would get back to Best to discuss this and, "I'll let you know where we are."

In other business at the 49-minute meeting, the DDA:

- Heard Thompson report she has ordered 12 "Downtown on the Lake" banners at a cost of \$115.58 each to replace those damaged by the wind and weather and to have six extra for street light poles. The DDA had purchased 40 banners in 2009 and the replacements are being made by the same company on the same marine acrylic fabric;

- Heard Thompson report that a DTE audit has been requested on the street lights as spelled out in the new District Maintenance Agreement with the city. Loria said an audit is a good idea since the LED lights the DDA put up to save money isn't saving money but costing more; and

- Discussed Horizon Park lakeside security, with Thompson saying that Police Chief Hal Berriman asked her who was going to monitor any cameras or motion detectors. And, he asked if they would write trespass tickets and how and who would enforce this. Thompson said geese or raccoons could set off sensors and asked if they could look at signage and a re-education about why the city has a handicap kayak/canoe launch. She said the launch is not intended for hanging, swinging, climbing on it. She suggested a YouTube video showing why it is there and a panel in the park kiosk. Also, a "see something, say something" drive could be started. She said, "We need to show that when you don't have it, you cut out use for a group of people." Ruth Kissell suggested having teens do a neighborhood watch and tell other teens not to play on it. Thompson suggested this might be a good community project for New Tech, which does project-based education at the high school.

National Heritage Academies Keystone Academy Public Notice

Public Budget Hearing

will be held for the following
Public School Academy:

Keystone
at Kabob Garden
244 E. Columbia Ave., Belleville
(734) 252-9880

May 10, 6 p.m.

Copies of the Budget for the listed
Public School Academy will be
available at the school office.

Published: May 3, 2018



They're reading the Independent everywhere

Multiple families went on a Spring Break 2018 cruise to Grand Cayman, Cozumel, Belize, and Costa Maya aboard the Royal Caribbean's Rhapsody of the Seas. Reading their *Independent* are member of the vacationing families which include the Emersons, Bradts, Lawsons, Hardys, Albus, Confere, and Collins.

You, too, are invited to submit a photo of you reading the *Independent* in an exotic location. Please include the name and address of the person you wish to get the free subscription when it is printed. Include your phone number if you want us to let you know just before goes in the paper. A person may use this offer to get a total of two free subscriptions – and no more.

If you aren't going to an exotic location, just send us \$30 for postage to an address inside Michigan or \$35 out of state, and we'll provide mail delivery of the *Independent* so you won't miss a single, exciting issue.



City of Belleville Public Notice



Hillside Cemetery Advisory Committee

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

Flag Placement for Memorial Day 2018
8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 19th

The Cemetery Advisory Committee will be placing American Flags on the graves of all veterans who are buried at Hillside Cemetery on Denton Road.

The flag placement project will begin on Saturday, May 19th at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers are needed to help place the flags. Each Cemetery section takes only about one hour of work.

Please consider this small sacrifice of time and join us to honor our veterans who fought to keep us free.



Sherri Scharf
City Clerk/Treasurer

PUBLISH: May 3 & May 10, 2018

Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

Out of the 496 dispatch calls for service reported by Van Buren Township police for the past week, the following are selected for this column.

Sunday, April 22:
0042 -- fraud, Belleville Rd.
0257 -- juvenile complaint, Parkwood Dr.
0401 -- threat, Belleville Rd.
0443 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Edison Lake
0601 -- breaking & entering, Parkwood Dr.
0743 -- noise complaint, Haggerty Rd.
0817 -- 911 welfare check, Haggerty Rd.
1100 -- domestic, Lake Villa Dr.
1124 -- domestic, Ash Dr.
1136 -- animal complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1336 -- animal complaint, Country Walk Ct.
1340 -- leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1356 -- animal complaint, Gilmore St.
1507 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Lighthouse Dr.
1500 -- malicious destruction of property, Jackson
1618 -- malicious destruction of property, S. Ponderosa Trl.

1819 -- family trouble, Hull Rd.
1850 -- property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck
1942 -- disorderly, Sumpter/Bemis
1942 -- sexual assault, Oak Ln.
2002 -- noise complaint, Maple Dr.
2106 -- property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
2120 -- animal complaint, Rayna Ct.
2203 -- breaking & entering, E. Archwood Dr.
2240 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Ironwood Dr.
2354 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Sondra Dr.

Monday, April 23:
0012 -- property check, Riggs Park
0036 -- shooting, E. Huron River Dr./Martinsville
0104 -- noise complaint, Aspen
0247 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. Woodbury
0327 -- property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
0728 -- property damage accident, Borgman Ave. / McBride Ave.
0803 -- animal complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Morton Taylor Rd.
0808 -- property damage accident, Van Born
0924 -- animal complaint, Rose Blvd.
1009 -- larceny, Sumpter Rd.
1011 -- abandoned auto, Arlene
1012 -- sexual assault, Clayton Rd.
1152 -- malicious destruction of property, Ventura Dr. / Laguna Dr.
1257 -- larceny from auto, Westlake Cir.
1330 -- unauthorized driving away of auto, McKinley St.
1518 -- property damage accident, Belleville
1527 -- private property/property damage accident, Tyler Rd.
1535 -- leaving the scene of a property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1607 -- larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1705 -- malicious destruction of property, Landmark
1754 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd.
1802 -- larceny, Belleville Rd.
1811 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.
1830 -- malicious destruction of property, Meadows Cir.

1934 -- ordinance violation, Haggerty Rd. / E. Huron River Dr.
1939 -- assist other dept., Aberdeen Ct.
2015 -- property damage accident, E. Huron River
2049 -- property check, Riggs Park
2229 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Quirk Rd.
2255 -- noise complaint, Prairiegrass Ct.

Tuesday, April 24:
0105 -- domestic, Locust Dr.
0132 -- family trouble, Parkwood Dr.
0730 -- animal complaint, Denton Rd.
0835 -- assist other dept., Spencer Ave.
0904 -- neighbor trouble, Ayres Ave.
1304 -- suicidal person, Pond Ridge Dr.
1305 -- private property/property damage accident, Kent Ln.
1358 -- property damage accident, Belleville/Quirk
1512 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1556 -- property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Coca-Cola Dr.
1828 -- personal injury accident, Haggerty/Van Born
1854 -- larceny, Florence Ln.
1930 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.

2004 -- domestic, Tyler Rd.
2138 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Hardwood Dr.
2247 -- larceny, Belleville Rd.
2247 -- fight, Belleville Rd.
2301 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Sumpter Rd.

Wednesday, April 25:
0300 -- assist other dept., Maple Dr.
0444 -- property damage accident, Haggerty/Tyler
0728 -- juvenile complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0805 -- hospice death, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0839 -- neighbor trouble, Lake Pointe Pass
0909 -- juvenile complaint, Florence Ln.
0912 -- fraud, Martinsville Rd.
1038 -- fraud, Belleville Rd.
1056 -- property damage accident, W. Huron River
1416 -- domestic, Monterey Dr.
1426 -- miscellaneous complaint, South/tracks
1437 -- fraud, Harmony Ln.
1643 -- animal complaint, Moms Dr.
1704 -- animal complaint, Elwell Rd.
1745 -- private property impound, S. Industrial
1855 -- property dame accident, Bemis/Haggerty
1905 -- private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1928 -- disorderly, Quirk Rd.
2107 -- property damage accident, Denton Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.

2256 -- property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Ecorse Rd.

Thursday, April 26:
0018 -- property check, Riggs Park
0117 -- assault & battery, Lighthouse
0253 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
0359 -- fraud, Rawsonville Rd.
0406 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Edwards Rd.
0658 -- property damage accident, Ecorse/Beck
0739 -- property damage accident, Rawsonville
1026 -- ordinance violation, Ecorse Rd.
1113 -- larceny, Oak Blvd.
1321 -- miscellaneous complaint, Pond Bluff
1400 -- larceny, Reed Oak Dr.
1450 -- domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1513 -- property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Ecorse Rd.

1548 -- animal complaint, Elwell Rd.
1624 -- larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.
1722 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. Bellridge Dr.
1722 -- threat, Parkwood Dr.
1725 -- property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty Rd.

1856 -- narcotics crime, Denton Rd.
1942 -- miscellaneous complaint, Parkwood Dr. / Tyler Rd.
1954 -- unauthorized driving away of auto, Maple
2048 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Blvd./Lohr

Friday, April 27:
0003 -- narcotics crime, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0235 -- domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0258 -- operating while intoxicated, Rawsonville
0359 -- disorderly, Fret Rd.
0429 -- property check, Riggs Heritage Park
1013 -- animal complaint, Bemis Rd.
1140 -- mental subject, Bayshore Dr.
1156 -- threat, Linda Vista
1359 -- threat, McBride
1526 -- road hazard, Van Born/Haggerty
1549 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1615 -- property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
1654 -- fraud, Kennedy Ct.
1706 -- family trouble, Belleville Rd.
1759 -- threat, E. Sadie Ln.
1904 -- breaking & entering, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2059 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Wildflower Ct.
2124 -- larceny, Wildflower Ct.
2244 -- property check, Riggs Park
2318 -- sex offender registration, Parkside Dr.

Saturday, April 28:
0008 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Lancaster Dr. / Fairfield Dr.
0256 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Sunset Pond Cir. / Winding Pond Dr.
1102 -- property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Belleville Rd.
1117 -- fraud, Belleville Rd.
1208 -- animal complaint, W. Huron River Dr.
1302 -- property damage accident, Filmore St.
1343 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Wildbrook Dr.
1454 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1501 -- suspicious person/vehicle, McBride Ave. / Haggerty Rd.

1513 -- animal complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1551 -- assist fire dept., WB I-94/Haggerty
1700 -- disorderly, Rawsonville rd.
1722 -- domestic, Denton Rd.
1738 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. Woodbury
1807 -- breaking & entering, Village Green Ln.

1847 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Kirkridge Park
1850 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Lighthouse Dr.
1923 -- property check, Riggs Park
1939 -- neighbor trouble, Dewitt Rd.
1947 -- 911 welfare check, Dewitt/S. I-94 Service
2031 -- property damage accident, Michigan Ave. / Denton Rd.
2050 -- operating while intoxicated, Rawsonville Rd. / W. Huron River Dr.
2116 -- dumping complaint, Rawsonville
2234 -- suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Old Denton Rd.
2344 -- malicious destruction of property, Vista Dr.
Also on this week's log are 194 traffic stops, 48 of which were on the I-94 and I-275 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 22:
0524 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Horizon Park
1153 -- welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.
1232 -- assist other dept., Victorian Ln.
1532 -- assist fire dept., Carmell St.
1908 -- found property/child, Main St.
1939 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Loza Ln.
2148 -- vehicle lockout, W. Columbia Ave.

Monday, April 23:
0118 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Horizon Park
0143 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Belle Villa Blvd.
0348 -- suspicious person/vehicle, High St.
0738 -- fraud, First St.
1141 -- court detail, Wayne Rd.
1311 -- animal complaint, Owen St.
1934 -- mental subject, S. Aberdeen Ct.
2009 -- vehicle lock out, W. Columbia Ave.
2342 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Owen St.

Tuesday, April 24:
0158 -- motorist assist, Sumpter Rd./Hull Rd.
1449 -- vehicle lock out, W. Columbia Ave.
1530 -- disorderly, Main St./Fifth St.
1631 -- mental subject, Loza Ln.
1647 -- property damage accident, Main St. / E. Huron River Dr.
2018 -- intrusion alarm, Sumpter Rd.
2050 -- disorderly, Henry St.

Wednesday, April 25:
1001 -- narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
1125 -- narcotics crime, W. Columbia Ave.
1402 -- juvenile complaint, Savage
1424 -- miscellaneous complaint, South/tracks
1806 -- domestic, Belle Villa Blvd.
2240 -- warrant arrest, Sumpter/Bemis
2356 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.

Thursday, April 26:
0450 -- vehicle lockout, W. Columbia Ave.
0724 -- property damage accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Main St.
1138 -- parking complaint, Church St. / W. Columbia Ave.
1439 -- domestic, S. Aberdeen Ct.
1626 -- juvenile complaint, Victorian Ln. / Aberdeen
1806 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Owen St.
1856 -- fraud, Potter Dr.
1919 -- malicious destruction of property, Owen
2013 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Carmell St.

Friday, April 27:
0029 -- sexual assault, S. Liberty St.
0606 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Owen St.
0627 -- intrusion alarm, Third St.
1059 -- intrusion alarm, S. Aberdeen Ct.
1533 -- operating while intoxicated, Main/Denton
1823 -- welfare check, W. Huron River Dr.
1937 -- family trouble, Biggs Ave.
2024 -- follow up by officer, S. Liberty St.
2048 -- follow up by officer, Sheldon
2122 -- warrant arrest, High St./Main St.
2212 -- suspicious person/vehicle, Loza Ln.

Saturday, April 28:
0601 -- juvenile complaint, Carmell St.
1028 -- assist fire dept., W. Columbia Ave.
1100 -- parking complaint, W. Columbia Ave.
2027 -- welfare check, Henry St.
2103 -- suspicious person/vehicle, N. Liberty St.
2327 -- assist fire dept., San Carlos St.
Also on this week's log are 40 traffic stops.

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Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, April 22:
0050 -- suspicious incident, California
1117 -- suspicious incident, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
1246 -- mental health commitment, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1323 -- 911 hang up, 39000 bl. Willow Rd.
1349 -- civil dispute, Tamarack
1522 -- fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.
1716 -- suspicious incident, Rustic Ln.
1723 -- shots fired, 46000 bl. Arkona Rd.
1724 -- suspicious incident, 25000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1806 -- fire dept. assist, 24000 lb. Sherwood Rd.
1825 -- fire dept. assist, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
2137 -- warrant arrest pick up, Bemis/Rawsonville

Monday, April 23:
0314 -- fire dept. assist, Timberlane
0331 -- fire dept. assist, Rustic Ln.
0453 -- death investigation, 39000 bl. Willis Rd.
0730 -- fire dept. assist, Timberlane
1120 -- malicious destruction of property, Mulberry
1344 -- fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1614 -- 911 hang up, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
1648 -- reckless driver, Haggerty/Oakville Waltz
1902 -- 911 hang up, Greenmeadow
2218 -- warrant arrest pick up, Second St.

Tuesday, April 24:
0659 -- 911 hang up, E. Arizona
0854 -- animal complaint, 44000 bl. Harris Rd.
1135 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1315 -- well-being check, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1316 -- civil dispute, First St.
1658 -- family trouble, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
1702 -- animal complaint, 41000 bl. Harris Rd.
1737 -- dumping complaint, 13000 bl. Rawsonville
1802 -- assist other agency, 43000 bl. Harris Rd.

Wednesday, April 25:
0627 -- fire dept. assist, 28000 bl. Karr Rd.
1017 -- alarm, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1152 -- alarm, 28000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1212 -- 911 hang up, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
1225 -- disorderly person, 48000 bl. Willis Rd.
1535 -- animal complaint, 40000 bl. Wear Rd.
1538 -- warrant arrest pick up, Walnut
1625 -- reckless driver, Sumpter/Willow
1722 -- citizen assist, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1807 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1808 -- assist other agency, out of township
1819 -- warrant arrest pick up, 28000 bl. Sumpter
1832 -- assist other agency, Bemis/Savage
1933 -- animal complaint, Sumpter/Victoria
2215 -- warrant arrest pick up, Bemis/Rawsonville

Thursday, April 26:
0047 -- animal complaint, 46000 bl. Judd Rd.
0834 -- suspicious incident, Brookview
0835 -- property damage accident, Willow / Sumpter
1348 -- fire dept. assist, Huron/Clark
1415 -- well-being check, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1421 -- operating while intoxicated arrest, Huron/Clark
1739 -- animal complaint, Bemis/Elwell
1743 -- animal complaint, Judd/Martinsville
1834 -- suspicious vehicle, 17000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1958 -- threats complaint, 41000 bl. Judd Rd.
2123 -- fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Clark Rd.

Friday, April 27:
0216 -- malicious destruction of property, 28000 bl. Marcus Dr.
0759 -- assist other agency, out of township
0916 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1012 -- animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1148 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1210 -- alarm, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1514 -- death investigation, 20000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1625 -- assist other agency, out of township
1700 -- citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
2139 -- 911 hang up, 41000 bl. Willis Rd.
2343 -- fire dept. assist, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

Saturday, April 28:
0010 -- disorderly person, Oregon
0323 -- assist other agency, out of township
0748 -- warrant arrest pick up, Oregon
1451 -- trespassing complaint, 46000 bl. Arkona
1609 -- citizen assist, Karr Rd.
1617 -- shots fired, Karr/Willis
1639 -- civil dispute, Carriage Ln.
1752 -- assist other agency, out of township
1846 -- fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1909 -- suspicious incident, 8100 bl. Rawsonville
2232 -- noise complaint, Stonecrest

Also on this week's log are seven follow-up investigations, 28 miscellaneous details, 94 patrol checks, and 54 traffic stops.

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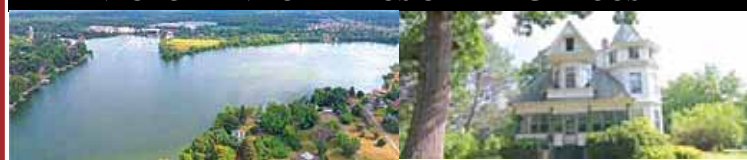
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17 ACRES 50X80 POLE BARN



41860 WILLOW, SUMPTER TOWNSHIP

CUSTOM BUILT 5 Bedroom, 4 1/2 Bath Country Home offering the Highest Quality of Amenities. 3 Fireplaces, Finished Basement, 3 Car Attached Garage, 50x80 Pole Barn and Gently placed on 17 Acres. Offered at \$550,000

OPEN MAY 6th 12-2



37 MADELON, BELLEVILLE

FULL BRICK 3 Bedroom, 1 Bath, City of Belleville Home with 2 First Floor Bedrooms, Formal Dining Room, Finished Basement, 1 1/2 Car Garage, Generator. Impressive Manicured Yard Full of Flowers and More \$169,900

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10744 WILLIS, AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP

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501 ESTRADA, BELLEVILLE

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OPEN MAY 6th 2-4



15487 HAGGERTY, VAN BUREN

SECLUDED LARGER 3,300 SF 4 Bedroom Brick Ranch with Gourmet Kitchen - Improvements over \$60,000, Master Bath with High end tile and fixtures - Improvements over \$40,000. Open Living Room with Fireplace, Hardwood Flooring, Study, Part Finished Basement with Second Fireplace. 5 Acres \$445,000

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VACANT TALLADAY 10+ ACRES \$75,000
VACANT KARR ROAD 5 ACRES \$35,000
46090 WEAR 1.09 AC BY PARK \$19,500
25817 SUMPTER 80X529 .97 AC \$20,000

42915 WILLIS 4 SPLITS \$30,000 & \$40,000
26960 SHERWOOD 2.5 ACRES \$30,000
24409 SHERWOOD 1.15 ACRES \$30,000
VACANT WEAR RD 5.28 ACRES \$60,000
26455 KARR 5 ACRES 162X1308 \$33,000
28710 SUMPTER ROAD \$10,000

49317 ARKONA 40.28 ACRES \$180,000
SHERWOOD 37.55 AC BY WEAR \$250,000
WILLOW ROAD 1.8 ACRES \$25,000
SUMPTER 8 AC NEXT TO 28200 \$49,000
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VACANT BOG RD 12.83 ACRES \$129,000
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